A Concise Companion to American Studies

Edited by
John Carlos Rowe
A Concise Companion to American Studies

Edited by
John Carlos Rowe
In memory of Emory Elliott
“One of those people on whom nothing is lost”
Contents

List of Contributors x
Acknowledgments xvi

Introduction 1
John Carlos Rowe

Part I Foundations and Backgrounds 17

1. Puritan Origins 19
   Philip F. Gura

2. Cultural Anthropology and the Routes of American Studies, 1851–1942 36
   Michael A. Elliott

3. The Laboring of American Culture 59
   Michael Denning

4. Is Class an American Study? 74
   Paul Lauter

5. Religious Studies 92
   Jay Mechling

6. American Languages 124
   Joshua L. Miller

Part II Ethnic Studies and American Studies 151

   George Lipsitz
Contents

8. Native American Studies
   John Gamber
   172

9. The Locations of Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies
   Richard T. Rodríguez
   190

10. African American Studies
    Jared Sexton
    210

11. Reckoning Nation and Empire: Asian American Critique
    Lisa Lowe
    229

Part III The New American Studies

12. Western Hemispheric Drama and Performance
    Harilaos Stecopoulos
    247

    Donald Pease
    263

    John Carlos Rowe
    284

15. Sugar, Sex, and Empire: Sarah Orne Jewett’s “The Foreigner” and the Spanish-American War
    Rebecca Walsh
    303

16. The Rapprochement of Technology Studies and American Studies
    David E. Nye
    320

    Matthias Oppermann
    334

Part IV Problems and Issues

18. Regionalism
    Kevin R. McNamara
    353

19. The West and Manifest Destiny
    Deborah L. Madsen
    369

20. Canadian Studies and American Studies
    Alyssa MacLean
    387
Contents

21. The US University under Siege: Confronting Academic Unfreedom 407
    Henry A. Giroux

22. Popular, Mass, and High Culture 432
    Shelley Streetby

Index 453
Contributors


Michael A. Elliott is Winship Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies at Emory University. He has published articles on the History of Ethnography, Native American Literature, and Public History. He is the author of *The Culture Concept: Writing and Difference in the Age of Realism* (2002) and *Custerology: The Enduring Legacy of the Indian Wars and George Armstrong Custer* (2007). He is also, with Claudia Stokes, the co-editor of *American Literary Studies: A Methodological Reader* (2003).

John Gamber is Assistant Professor at Columbia University in the Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. He received his BA from the University of California, Davis, his MA from California State University, Fullerton (both in Comparative Literature), and his PhD (English) from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Gamber’s research interests in Ethnic and Literary Studies include Ecocriticism, Transnationalism, Diaspora, Immigration, Relocation, American Indian, Asian American, African American, Chicana/o and Latina/o Literatures, and Literature of the Americas. He has co-edited *Transnational Asian American Literature: Sites and Transits*, and published articles about the novels of Gerald Vizenor (Anishinaabe), Louis Owens (Choctaw/Cree), and Craig Womack (Cree), among others, in several edited collections and journals, including *PMLA* and *MELUS*. His current book project, entitled *Positive Pollutions and Cultural*
Toxins (forthcoming), examines the role of waste and contamination in late twentieth-century US Ethnic Literatures.

**Henry A. Giroux** currently holds the Global TV Network Chair Professorship at McMaster University in the English and Cultural Studies Department. His primary research areas are: Cultural Studies, Youth Studies, Critical Pedagogy, Popular Culture, Media Studies, Social Theory, and the Politics of Higher and Public Education. He is on the editorial and advisory boards of numerous national and international scholarly journals, and he serves as the editor or co-editor of four scholarly book series. He has published numerous books and articles, and his most recent books include: *The University in Chains: Confronting the Military-Industrial-Academic Complex* (2007), *Against the Terror of Neoliberalism* (2008), and *Youth in a Suspect Society: Democracy or Disposability?* (2009).

**Philip F. Gura** is the William S. Newman Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his doctorate in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University and is the author of 10 books, including: *A Glimpse of Sion’s Glory: Puritan Radicalism in New England; Jonathan Edwards: America’s Evangelical; and American Transcendentalism: A History*. He is also an editor of the *Norton Anthology of American Literature*. He is an elected Fellow of the Society of American Historians and member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. In 2008, the Division on American Literature to 1800 of the Modern Language Association named him Distinguished Scholar.

**Paul Lauter** is A. K. and G. M. Smith Professor of Literature at Trinity College, and general editor of the groundbreaking *Heath Anthology of American Literature*. Lauter was active in the civil rights, peace, and labor movements; he worked for a number of social cause organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, served as a union official at the State University of New York, and co-authored a book about the 1960s, *The Conspiracy of the Young*. His most recent books are *From Walden Pond to Jurassic Park*, an edited volume of Thoreau’s writings, and (with Ann Fitzgerald) *Literature, Class and Culture*. He has received the Jay Hubbell Medal for lifetime achievement in American Literary Study, awarded by the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association, and the Bode-Pearson Prize of the American Studies Association for lifetime achievement in American Studies.

**George Lipsitz** is Professor of Black Studies and Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His publications include *American Studies in a Moment of Danger, Footsteps in the Dark, Time Passages, Dangerous Crossroads, and The Possessive Investment in Whiteness*. He is editor of the Critical American Studies
series at the University of Minnesota Press and co-editor of the American Crossroads series at the University of California Press. His book *Midnight at the Barrelhouse: The Johnny Otis Story* is scheduled for publication in 2010. Lipsitz has been active in struggles for fair housing and educational equity. He serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the African American Policy Forum and sits on the Board of Directors of the National Fair Housing Alliance.


Kevin R. McNamara is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles*, the author of *Urban Verbs: Arts and Discourses of American Cities*, editor of *Teaching “America” Abroad*, a special issue of *Journal of American Studies of Turkey*, and numerous essays about Cities, Urban Culture, Theories of Diversity and Multiculturalism, and International American Studies. He has been a Fulbright Scholar in the Czech Republic and Turkey, and a Fulbright Interfoundation Award grantee in Greece. Presently, he teaches at the University of Houston, Clear Lake.

Alyssa MacLean is a PhD candidate in English at the University of British Columbia, where she is completing a thesis examining nineteenth-century American literary representations of cross-border movement between Canada and the United States. Her research interests include theories of exile and mobility in North America, nineteenth-century US print culture, Black North American Literature, and transnational approaches to American and Canadian Studies.

Jay Mechling is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Davis, where he has taught since 1971. His degrees are in American Studies (BA at Stetson University, MA and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania), and he was one of four editors for The Encyclopedia of American Studies. He is a recipient of the American Studies Association’s Mary Turpie Prize for excellence in teaching and curricular development, and he is a recipient of both the Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of California, Davis, and the Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. He is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters, and he was editor of Western Folklore, a quarterly journal. He is a Fellow of the American Folklore Society. His book On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth (2001) brings together his work on Masculinities, Folklore, and Youth Cultures.

Joshua L. Miller is Associate Professor of English at the University of Michigan. He has published articles on twentieth-century US Literature, Language Politics, Visual Culture, and Race. His Accented America is a study of the rise of English-Only Americanism and literary Modernist experiments with mixed languages.

David E. Nye (BA at Amherst College, and MA and PhD at the University of Minnesota), has taught in Denmark since 1982. He has been a Visiting Scholar for a semester or more at MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, Warwick, Leeds, Oviedo, Notre Dame, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. In 2005, he received the Leonardo da Vinci Medal, the lifetime achievement award of the Society for the History of Technology, for such works as Image Worlds (1985), Electrifying America (1990), American Technological Sublime (1994), Consuming Power (1998), America as Second Creation (2003), and Technology Matters (2006). He is also author of the forthcoming Artificial Darkness: From Blackout to Greenout (2010).

Matthias Oppermann is a Lecturer for American Studies and New Pedagogies at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. Since 2003, he has been a Visiting Researcher at the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship at Georgetown University where he is the Electronic Projects Coordinator for the American Studies Crossroads Project. Since 2007, he has also served as Assistant Director for Electronic Projects at the Forum for Inter-American Studies at Bielefeld University. His research interests include the History of American Studies, Digital Storytelling, and Critical Pedagogy. He recently completed his doctoral dissertation on “The Reconstruction of American Studies in US Higher Education” at Humboldt-University, Berlin.

Donald Pease, Professor of English, Avalon Foundation Chair of the Humanities, Chair of the Dartmouth Liberal Studies Program and winner of the 1981
The essays, written by prominent global Americanists, as well as the emerging scholars shaping the field, seek to provide foundational resources as well as experimental and forward-leaning approaches to Transnational American Studies. A Companion to American Studies is an essential volume that brings together voices and scholarship from across the spectrum of American experience. A collection of 22 original essays which provides an unprecedented introduction to the “new” American Studies: a comparative, transnational, postcolonial and polylingual discipline. Addresses a variety of subjects, from foundations and backgrounds to the field, to different theories of the “new” American Studies, and issues from globalization and technology to transnationalism and post-colonialism. Explores the relationship between American...
A Companion to American Studies is an essential volume that brings together voices and scholarship from across the spectrum of American experience. A collection of 22 original essays which provides an unprecedented introduction to the “new” American Studies: a comparative, transnational, postcolonial and polylingual discipline. Addresses a variety of subjects, from foundations and backgrounds to the field, to different theories of the American Studies, and issues from globalization and technology to transnationalism and post-colonialism. Explores the relationship between... by Wiley. in A Companion to Asian American Studies. A Companion to Asian American Studies pp 1-14; doi:10.1002/9780470996928.ch1. Publisher Website. Full-Text. A Companion to the American West. Blackwell companions to history. This series provides sophisticated and authoritative overviews of the scholarship that has shaped our current understanding of the past. Dened by theme, period and/or region, each volume comprises between twenty-five and forty concise essays written by individual scholars within their area of specialization. The aim of each contribution is to synthesize the current state of scholarship from a variety of historical perspectives and to provide a statement on where the eld is heading. The essays are written in a clear, provocative,